

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Gregory Scott
Edward A. Garvey
Marshall Johnson
LeRoy Koppendrayner
Phyllis A. Reha

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition for Extended Area
Service from Claremont, West Concord, and
Dodge Center to Kasson and Mantorville

ISSUE DATE: June 6, 2002

DOCKET NO. P-407, 539/CP-96-908

ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS
AND DENYING PETITION

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On August 5, 1996 telephone subscribers in the West Concord, Dodge Center, and Claremont exchanges filed a petition seeking extended area service (EAS) between one another and between themselves and the neighboring Kasson-Mantorville local calling area (LCA). The West Concord, Dodge Center, and Claremont exchanges are served by Citizens Telecommunications Company, then GTE-Minnesota. The Kasson and Mantorville exchanges are both served by the Kasson and Mantorville Telephone Company.

On March 8, 1999, the Commission approved EAS between Claremont, Dodge Center, and West Concord pursuant to the School District EAS statute, leaving only EAS from Claremont, Dodge Center, and West Concord to the Kasson-Mantorville LCA for further Commission action.

On November 8, 1999, the Commission issued its ORDER DENYING PETITION IN PART AND REQUIRING COST STUDIES AND PROPOSED RATES. In this Order, the Commission denied the petition for EAS between Claremont and Kasson-Mantorville for lack of traffic volume; and ordered cost studies and proposed rates for the petition for EAS between Dodge Center and Kasson-Mantorville and between West Concord and Kasson-Mantorville.

The companies duly filed their cost studies and proposed rates, but the Commission did not proceed directly to polling. Instead, in a series of Orders issued between November 1998 and May 2001, the Commission addressed a series of new issues posed by the need to adapt EAS to the competitive telecommunications market mandated by state and federal law. With these issues largely settled, the Commission met on October 30, 2001 to again consider EAS between Dodge Center and the Kasson-Mantorville LCA and between West Concord and the Kasson-Mantorville LCA.

On November 16, 2001, the Commission issued its ORDER SETTING EAS RATE ADDITIVES AND REQUIRING POLLING and telephone subscribers in the Dodge Center and West Concord exchanges were polled between February 6 and March 25, 2002.

On May 2, 2002, the Commission met to consider the polling results for the Dodge Center and West Concord to Kasson-Mantorville proposed EAS route.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

This Order addresses the results of the polling in West Concord.¹ West Concord is currently served by Citizens Telecommunications Company of Minnesota (Citizens or the Company) and the Kasson- Mantorville LCA is served by the Kasson and Mantorville Telephone Company.

The final criterion for an EAS petition is whether there is adequate customer support for the proposed EAS route. If a majority of customers vote in favor of installing the proposed EAS, the Commission is authorized and directed to order the relevant local telephone company to install the service. If not, the petition must be denied.

The Commission has reviewed the results of the polling of West Concord customers and will certify the following results. With 64.7 percent participation, the results were:

Polling results for West Concord

Voting Exchange	Petitioned Exchange	Res. EAS Rate	Bus. EAS Rate	% Voting	Yes		No	
					#	%	#	%
West Concord	Kasson-Mantorville	\$3.23	\$6.46	64.7	263	42.3	359	57.7

Since less than a majority of the West Concord customers responding to the poll voted in favor of installing the proposed EAS route between West Concord and Kasson-Mantorville, the Commission will deny this petition and direct Citizens, the local telephone company serving the West Concord exchange, to notify its customers, as set forth in more detail in the Ordering Paragraphs.

¹ An Order addressing the results of polling Dodge Center customers regarding the route proposed between Dodge Center and the Kasson-Mantorville LCA is being issued contemporaneously. See *In the Matter of Petition for Extended Area Service from Dodge Center to Kasson-Mantorville*, Docket No. P-407, 539/CP-96-908, ORDER CERTIFYING POLLING RESULTS AND REQUIRING IMPLEMENTATION (June 6, 2002).

ORDER

1. The polling results for the West Concord exchange in this matter are hereby certified as set forth above.
2. In accord with the results of that polling, the Commission hereby denies the petition for EAS between the West Concord and the Kasson-Mantorville LCA.
3. Within 10 days of this Order, Citizens Telephone Company (Citizens or the Company) shall file proposed customer notices for approval by Commission Staff. The notices should list the results of the polling. After approval, the Company shall serve notices in the first possible billing cycle in their respective exchanges.
4. At the time the notices referred to in Ordering Paragraph 3 have been served, the Company shall file copies of the final notices with the Minnesota Department of Public Service and the Commission. Thereupon, this portion of the docket will be closed.
5. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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